

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-01-14

10/16/01

SUSPENSION OF MOISTURE TESTING METHOD AND CALIBRATIONS FOR WESTERN PRODUCTION MEDIUM GRAIN RICE

1. SUMMARY

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has decided to suspend moisture testing of western production Medium Grain Milled rice (MGMR) and western production Medium Grain Brown rice for processing (MGBR) using the Dickey-john Corporation Grain Analysis Computer (GAC 2100) until the beginning harvest of 2002 crop (September 1).

FGIS will continue to use the Motomco 919 on western production MGMR and MGBR until new crop 2002 begins. This program notice suspends the effective date for MGMR and MGBR calibrations stated in FGIS-Directive 9180.61, "Official Calibrations for the Dickey-john GAC 2100 Moisture Meter," dated June 15, 2001, for western production medium grain milled and brown rice only.

2. BACKGROUND

On May 15, 2001, FGIS changed instruments (Motomco 919 to GAC 2100) used for testing moisture in MGMR and MGBR. In addition to the change in instruments, FGIS introduced a new MGMR and MGBR calibration with the GAC 2100. The change in instruments produced a significant difference in western production MGMR and MGBR moisture results on tested lots and adversely affected the western rice market.

Due to the energy crisis, California rice mills no longer dry to the normal 11-12 percent moisture range. They now dry to a higher 13-14 percent range. This shift in the marketing moisture range and the difference in results obtained by the new method caused California rice mills to experience difficulties meeting contract specification on moisture.

Consequently, FGIS has decided to suspend the implementation of the new instrument for western production MGMR and MGBR until September 1, 2002. Delaying the use of the GAC 2100 will allow ample time for the California rice industry to adjust their storage and marketing practices for future medium grain sales.

3. ACTION

Suspend the testing of western production MGMR and MGBR using the GAC 2100 until September 1, 2002. File a copy of this Notice with FGIS Directive 9180.61.

4. QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, contact the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.

/S/ David Orr

David Orr, Director
Field Management Division